

Focus on election- '91

Tribal refugees

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Chairman of the Rangamati district Gaotam Dewan said that they would launch movement if the council was dissolved.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Mr. Fakhruddin told The Daily Star that the problem of Chittagong Hill Tracts should be resolved politically and the political leaders should play a responsible role regarding the matter.

He said that the prime duty of the political leaders should be concentrated on drawing the tribal people into mainstream politics so that they could take part in nation building task.

He said that after the election of local governments in CHTs the situation had improved a lot and the tribals were feeling safe to return from India.

The Indian side claim that there are about 55 thousand refugees in six camps at Tripura and Mizoram in India. But since the local government election a total of about 22,000 refugees have so far returned.

But the leaders of the Local

10 hurt as poll camps ransacked in Chittagong

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 5:

At least 10 persons were injured and 13 election camps were ransacked while 15 boat symbols were set ablaze following sporadic incidents of violence centering round election campaigns last night in the port city of Chittagong.

A press release issued by city Awami League said the incidents had occurred at Steel Mills gate, Agrabad and Lal Khan Bazar areas that triggered protests. One Anwar Hossain was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

He was identified as BNP activist. With bullet injuries Police said none was arrested so far, police said.

The Awami League leaders blamed BNP workers for the acts of violence.

The government on Tuesday appointed Prof. Mohammad Ibarun Rasheed of the Department of English, Jahan-girnagar University, as the

Director General of Bangla Academy, reports BSS.

The present DG Dr Mahmud Sah Quraeshi has been relieved of his responsibilities, an official handout said.

Kamal Lohani, a Director of Press Institute of Bangladesh, has been appointed the new Director General of Shilpkala Academy. The present DG of the academy Mahbub Talukder, has been made OSD in the

Ministry of Establishment.

The Director General of Bangladesh National Museum Dr Enamul Haq has been made OSD in the Ministry of Establishment, the handout said.

The Sammilita Sangskritik Joti has hailed the government decision of removing the associates of the autocratic Ershad regime in the cultural arena.

The Joti, in a press release, congratulated the Acting President.

Biman

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by IATA. But the domestic fare remained unchanged as it is fixed by the government.

Biman sources say the total losses in the domestic sector now stands over 40 percent which can be cut only by raising the passenger fare. However, the government is yet to take any decision in this regard.

The domestic fare of Biman was enhanced in July, 1989 by 40 percent.

No assurance

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A.F. Hasan Arif that steps would be taken for speedy trial of a criminal case against the ex-President and that he was going to be shifted to the Central Jail soon.

The fact of the matter is that no such assurance was given by the Deputy Attorney General nor was any such statement necessary in connection with the disposal of an election matter. The judgement of the High Court Division itself shows that the said writ petition was withdrawn by the petitioner's lawyer. The order of the court is quoted below:

"Heard the learned advocate for the petitioner, Dr Kamal Hussain, and A F Hasan Arif, Deputy Attorney General. In course of hearing Dr Kamal Hussain prayed for permission to withdraw the application. The prayer is allowed. Let this application be treated as withdrawn and disposed of."

The government has taken serious objection to such untrue and motivated statement as reported in the press."

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No party barred from contest : Shahabuddin

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A 17-member delegation of teachers, Syndicate members, provosts and student leaders of Dhaka University led by Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Moniruzzaman Mia called on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the President's Secretariat here on Tuesday, reports BSS.

They demanded immediate recovery of illegal arms from the Dhaka University campus for restoration of a proper academic atmosphere.

They also said, the country should be completely free of illegal arms for the parliamentary polls to be free and fair.

The members of the delegation included, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr. Wakil Ahmed, Proctor Kamrul Ahsan Chowdhury, DUCSU General Secretary Khaifur Kabir Khokon and other APSU leaders.

They said illegal arms should be recovered also for ensuring peace and progress of the country. They demanded that the supply chain of such arms should be unearthed and those involved in it immediately apprehended and put on trial.

The student leaders ple-

Jatiya Party

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ing polls.

He said that the release of Ershad and his ministers was essential to ensure neutral elections.

He also called upon the JP workers to strengthen the party under its acting chief Mizanur Rahman Choudhury.

BNP reaction

Nazir Ahmed, press secretary of BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia, in a statement condemned the terrorist act by the processionists demanding release of ex-president Ershad.

He said that the elements created a reign of terror at Topkhana, Gulistan, Titakuli and Motijheel commercial areas by damaging vehicles and creating panic among the public.

They attacked press vehicles and tore posters of different political parties, he said.

Press secretary of the BNP chief urged the interim government to take stern action against the terrorists.

Hasina

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problems of all classes and professions through open discussions in the Parliament.

She called upon the people to vote for 'boat', the election symbol of Awami League.

She said some known elements were being afraid of the "imminent victory of Awami League" was creating terror to mar the elections.

Lithuania

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vote "a plebiscite on the future of the Lithuanian state," news reports said. "A group of 19 groups signed a statement calling on all residents to declare for an independent Lithuania," the news agency Tass said Monday.

The US has been grateful for Israel's decision so far not

Reception to officials banned

The government has prohibited civil servants from attending functions or receptions arranged in their honour, official sources said on Tuesday.

A notification on the restriction has been served by the Establishment Ministry to high officials of all government offices down to the district level.

Government officials are frequently found attending as chief or special guests different functions arranged in their honour, breaching clause 7 (1) of the government servants' conduct rule, the notice said.

The clause states, "No government servant shall encourage meetings to be held in his honour or presentation of addresses of which the purpose is to praise him or any entertainment to be held in his honour."

It directed the officials to strictly follow the conduct rule henceforth.

Central BSD leader Abdullah Sarkar also addressed the meetings.

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to go half-fed or unfed during its rule.

Begum Zia said BNP, if voted to power, will try former President Ershad and his 'black listed' associates for their crimes.

The BNP chief who arrived here Monday evening on a two-day electioneering tour of Chittagong and Feni visited the Mazar of Amanat Shah(R) in the morning. She then went to the first grave of late President Ziaur Rahman at Rangunia, offered Fatcha and addressed a public meeting. Then she addressed a series of rallies and wayside meetings at Rawjhat, Chandragona, Nowapara, Ihatazar, Patikchari in Roonia before returning to Double Mooring.

She was scheduled to address a meeting at Ihatazar at 2 pm but reached the venue six hours behind schedule.

Tens of thousands of people gathered there from the morning and waited to listen to her address. Enthusiastic party workers and supporters cheered from two sides of the road as her car entered the city. The car was followed by a big procession. Begum Zia is contesting from Double Mooring (Chittagong-8) constituency.

Begum Zia will address a public meeting at Mirershara today (Wednesday) morning on her way to Feni.

Under security and military

Call to defeat associates of Ershad

CHANDPUR, Feb 5: Five-party convenor and chief of Bangladesh Samjhatajatrik Dal Khelquzzaman Bhuiyan called upon the people to defeat the associates of the autocratic and the communal forces, reports BSS.

He said whether we would be able to uphold the victory achieved by the people would depend on the result of the parliament election.

He said the Five-Party would continue its struggle inside and outside the parliament in the interest of achieving the main objectives of the anti-autocracy movement.

He urged the government to reduce the prices of agricultural inputs by 50 per cent and ensure fair price of the cash crops including jute, tobacco, and betel leaf.

The Five-Party leader was addressing separate public meetings at Nayarhat and Rayer Bazar in Chandpur district.

Central BSD leader Abdullah Sarkar also addressed the meetings.

Zia's killing

Khaleda Zia said that if voted to power BNP would take all possible steps for the development of Chittagong, and transform it into an international airport.

She said her husband late President Zia, who was also the founder of BNP, had a deep love for Chittagong from where he had declared the independence of Bangladesh. Zia had also embraced his death in Chittagong and was first buried here, she told the audience in an emotion charged voice.

Begum Zia said BNP believed in democracy and had waged movement against the autocratic Ershad regime for nine years. It also believed in the politics of development, and would set up industries for solving the problem of unemployment.

Urging the people to vote for her party candidates she said BNP would reach the basic necessities of food and clothing to them.

While addressing a labour-mass rally at Chandragona she said BNP would allow free trade union rights if it was voted.

Begum Zia will address a public meeting at Mirershara today (Wednesday) morning on her way to Feni.

Under security and military

The Midnight File

Rwanda's cabinet reshuffled

NAIROBI, Feb 5: Rwanda's President has reshuffled his Cabinet as fighting against rebels continues, a report said Tuesday. Rwanda radio said President Juvenal Habyarimana announced the reshuffle at a ceremony Monday to swear in three new members of Parliament. The report said Habyarimana appointed six new ministers, reassigned two and abolished one ministry, but the broadcast gave no explanation for the changes, reports AP.

Passengers foil plane hijack

NEW DELHI, Feb 5: The crew and passengers of an Indian jet overpowered a student who tried to hijack the flight by threatening to blow it up with a pomegranate and an orange he said were bombs, reports said Tuesday. The student threatened the crew of an Indian Airlines flight Monday from Calcutta to the city of Agartala with the two pieces of fruit wrapped in a scarf saying he was hijacking the plane, the United News of India (UNI) said, reports AFP.

Greek military plane missing

ATHENS, Feb 5: A Greek military transport plane with 59 people on board disappeared from radar screens Tuesday while attempting to land in bad weather, the Greek Air Force said. The plane, a C-130 Hercules, was flying from a military airport in Elefsina, south of the capital, to the military airport of Nea Anchialos outside the central port city of Volos, reports AP.

20 air passengers rescued

JAKARTA, Feb 5: Twenty passengers and crew members were rescued Tuesday, six days after their plane made an emergency landing on a jungle slope in North Sulawesi, an airline spokesman said. One passenger died after the landing last Wednesday that left the twin-engine, 24-seat Cessna Cassa-212 perched partly on trees, said spokesman M. Djubaedi of the state-run Merpati Nusantara Airlines, reports AP.

Japanese drug group declares "war"

TOKYO, Feb 5: A group calling itself "Cocaine Connection La Red Bull" has declared "war" against investigators working to stop the smuggling of cocaine into Japan, police said Tuesday.

The declaration came in 16 letters, each containing four grams (0.14 ounces) of cocaine, valued at 360,000 yen (2,748 dollars) in street sales, said a police official speaking on condition of anonymity, reports AP.

La Red Bull" has declared "war" against investigators working to stop the smuggling of cocaine into Japan, police said Tuesday.

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